

# State of California Syphilis Elimination Surveillance Data

## Quarter 4, 2000

California Department of Health Services  
Division of Communicable Disease Control  
STD Control Branch

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## Executive Summary

- In 2000, California saw its first increase in over a decade in both the number of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases reported (315 up from 288 in 1999) as well as the rate (0.91 per 100,000 up from 0.85 per 100,000 in 1999).
- Overall, 57% (35) of California health jurisdictions reported no P&S syphilis in 2000.
- In 2000 the African-American:White P&S rate ratio declined to 4:1 from 9:1 in 1999; the male:female P&S rate ratio increased in 2000 to 6:1 from 3:1 in 1999.
- The proportion of P&S syphilis cases that were among men who have sex with men (MSM) doubled in California in 2000 (51% Vs. 23%)
- The Northern California region reported only 5 P&S syphilis cases in 2000, a decrease of 76% from 1999.
- The Bay Area saw a 33% increase in the number of reported cases, with marked increases in the number of MSM cases reported from 1999 to 2000.
- In the Central California region, which saw a 52% decline in the number of reported cases in 2000, heterosexual contact appears to remain the primary route of transmission of P&S syphilis.
- In Southern California a large outbreak of P&S syphilis among MSM occurred, leading to a 22% increase in the number of case reported and doubling of the proportion of cases that were MSM in this region
- Overall in California, as heterosexual transmission appears to wane, increases in MSM acquired P&S syphilis have been seen throughout the state.

## Introduction

This document includes the latest data regarding primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis in California. The California STD Control Branch, Berkeley California, presents these data quarterly to provide up-to-date data on the epidemiologic profile of syphilis in the state of California as a whole, as well as regionally. The document includes analyses of primary and secondary (P&S) syphilis cases reported in both 1999 and 2000. Data from California, including Los Angeles and San Francisco, are presented. These data are **provisional** and should be treated as such. Furthermore, to protect client confidentiality, health jurisdiction was collapsed for those with fewer than 3 P&S case-patients reported.

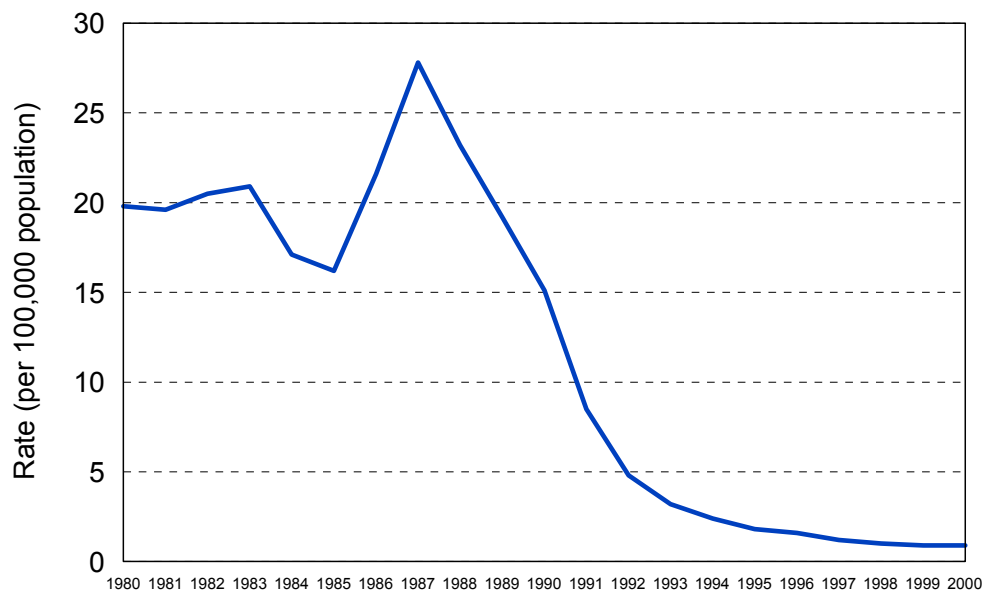
Recent enhancements to the California syphilis surveillance system have allowed for a more comprehensive collection of data elements that are of epidemiologic value. The addition of data on self-reported HIV serostatus and care, social service and medical care access, sexual and drug use behaviors, partner characteristics, and travel history will prove invaluable in tracking the changing trajectory of syphilis morbidity in California. This system is still in its infancy and not all elements were collected in the year 1999. In addition, some variables are missing or incomplete for the both the years 1999 and 2000. Caution should be taken in comparing of proportions reporting certain risk factors not routinely reported in 1999.

If you have any comments, concerns, or suggestions, please contact the California STD Prevention and Control Branch, Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit ([syphilis@dhs.ca.gov](mailto:syphilis@dhs.ca.gov)).

## **Overview California Syphilis**

In California, 315 P&S syphilis cases were reported to the California Department of Health Services during 2000. This represents a 9% increase compared to 1999, where 288 cases were reported. Furthermore, the P&S syphilis rate in 2000 was 0.91 per 100,000 population, up from the rate of 0.85 per 100,000 population seen in 1999. Albeit slight, this represents the first increase in California P&S syphilis rates seen since 1988 (Figure 1). Forty-three percent (26/61) of the health jurisdictions in California reported at least one P&S syphilis cases in 2000, representing no change from 1999 when forty-three percent (26/61) had at least one case. However, in 2000, two health jurisdictions (Mariposa and Nevada) reported their first P&S syphilis cases in over 15 years.

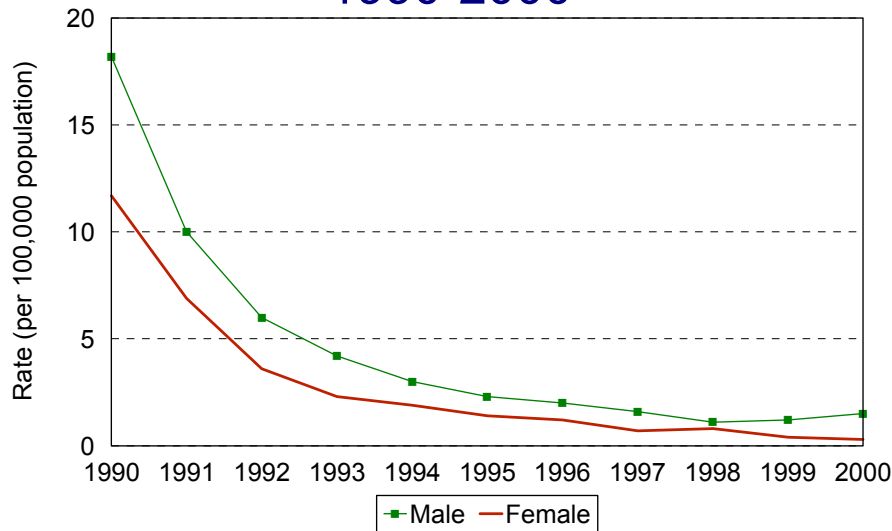
## Figure 1 - Primary and Secondary Syphilis Rates--California, 1980-2000



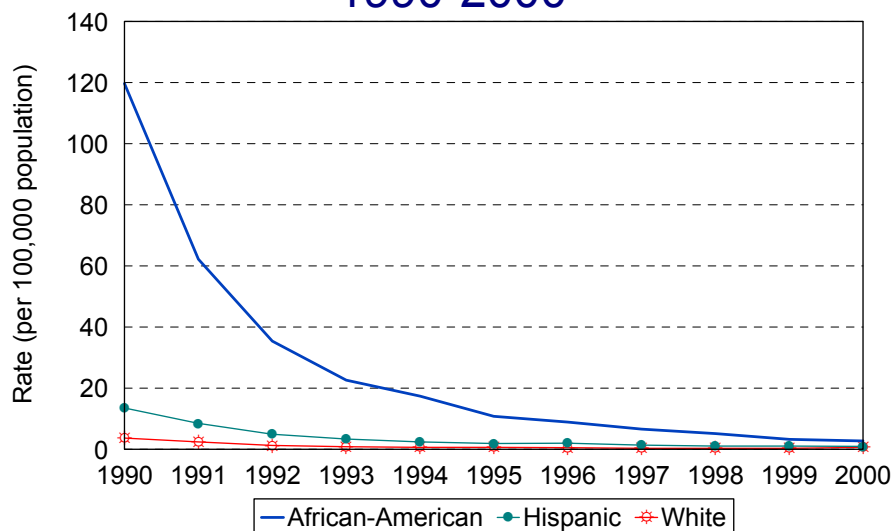
Figures 2 and 3 present California P&S syphilis rates by gender and race/ethnicity, respectively, from 1990 to 2000. While P&S syphilis rates have continually declined through the 1990's, males appear to be disproportionately affected by P&S syphilis infections. In 2000, the P&S syphilis rate among males increased to 1.54 per 100,000 from 1.25 per 100,000 in 1999. Female rates declined from 0.44 per 100,000 to 0.27 per 100,000. Furthermore, in 2000 the male:female P&S syphilis rate ratio increased from 1999 (6:1 Vs. 3:1). This increase in the proportion of male P&S syphilis cases reported in California is a likely effect of the increases of syphilis seen among MSM in 2000.

Similar trends are seen when race/ethnicity is examined. While P&S syphilis rates declined among people of color, the P&S syphilis rates among Whites increased from 0.4 per 100,000 in 1999 to 0.7 in 2000. Again, this is a likely artifact of the increase in MSM P&S syphilis seen in California, many of whom were White. The P&S syphilis rate among African-Americans decreased from 3.4 per 100,000 in 1999 to 2.8 per 100,000 in 2000. Among Hispanics, the rate in 2000 decreases 1.0 per 100,000 in 2000 from 1.2 per 100,000 in 1999. Furthermore, this increase in White P&S syphilis, coupled with a decrease in African-American P&S syphilis has drastically reduced the African-American:White rate ratio from 9:1 in 1999 to 4:1 in 2000.

**Figure 2 - Primary and Secondary Syphilis-Rates by Gender, California, 1990-2000**



**Figure 3 - Primary and Secondary Syphilis-Rates by Race/Ethnicity, California, 1990-2000**



The number of P&S syphilis cases and rates for California are mapped in Figures 4 and 5. As illustrated in the maps, P&S syphilis morbidity appears localized primarily in three distinct areas; the San Francisco Bay Area, Southern California, and Fresno and its surrounding counties. Thirty-four (57%) health jurisdictions were P&S syphilis free in 2000, the same percentage in 1999. Furthermore, in 2000, 7 health jurisdictions accounted for 75% of the total state P&S syphilis burden.

Figure 4- P&S Syphilis Cases- California 2000

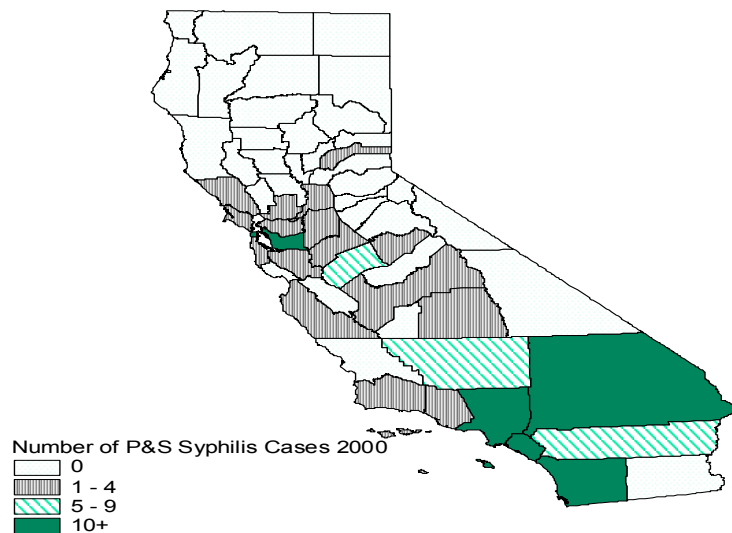


Figure 5- P&S Syphilis Rates  
(per 100,000 population)-California 2000

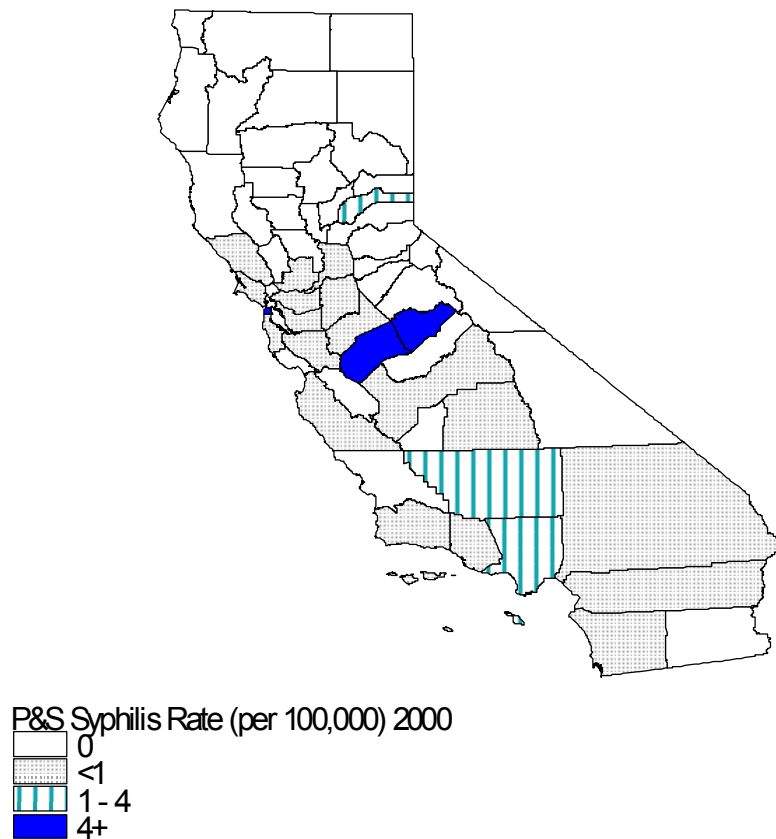


Table 1 is a summary of the local epidemiology of P&S syphilis in California. Eighty-five percent of P&S syphilis cases reported in California were among males. Over half of the reported cases were 35 years of age or older. 2000 saw a 94% increase in the number of P&S syphilis cases among Whites, in contrast to declines among all other racial/ethnic groups. Of particular importance, the number of P&S syphilis cases among men who have sex with men (MSM) increased 145% and over half (51%) of the reported cases in 2000 were among MSM. Consistent with trends seen with other STDs, a large proportion (130, 41%) of infectious syphilis cases were identified through private medical doctors, with this number increasing from 1999 (100, 35%). Illicit drug use was reported by nearly a quarter of cases, with methamphetamines the most frequently reported drug. A quarter of 2000 P&S syphilis cases self-reported being HIV seropositive, however 28% of the reported cases had an unknown HIV serostatus.

In summary, 2000 appears to mark a year of transition in the epidemiology of syphilis in California. The extent to which the statewide data is skewed is unclear, given the contribution of the large outbreak of MSM P&S syphilis in Southern California in 2000. The demographic and behavioral trends suggest that a shift towards more MSM associated P&S morbidity may be occurring.

**Table 1- Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, California 1999 & 2000**

Characteristic	1999 n (%) N=288	2000 n (%) N=315	Change n (%) 27 (9.4%)
<b>Stage</b>			
Primary	107 (37.2%)	94 (29.8%)	-13 (-12.1%)
Secondary	181 (62.8%)	221 (70.2%)	40 (22.1%)
<b>Gender</b>			
M	213 (74.0%)	268 (85.1%)	55 (25.8%)
F	75 (26.0%)	47 (14.9%)	-28 (-37.3%)
<b>Age</b>			
<20	17 (5.9%)	8 (2.5%)	-9 (52.9%)
20-24	38 (13.2%)	29 (9.2%)	-9 (-23.7%)
25-29	45 (15.6%)	40 (12.7%)	-5 (-11.1%)
30-34	57 (19.8%)	68 (21.6%)	11 (19.3%)
35-39	44 (15.3%)	69 (21.9%)	25 (56.8%)
40+	87 (30.2%)	101 (32.1%)	14 (16.1%)
<b>Race</b>			
White	66 (22.9%)	128 (40.6%)	62 (94.0%)
Hispanic	122 (42.4%)	104 (33.0%)	-18 (-14.8%)
African-American	79 (27.4%)	65 (20.6%)	-14 (-17.7%)
Other	21 (7.3%)	18 (5.7%)	-3 (-14.3%)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Heterosexual Male	94 (32.6%)	75 (23.8%)	-19 (-20.2%)
MSM	66 (22.9%)	162 (51.4%)	96 (145.5%)
Female	75 (26.0%)	47 (14.9%)	-28 (-37.3%)
Unknown	53 (18.4%)	31 (9.8%)	-22 (-41.5%)
<b>Diagnosed at</b>			
Early HIV Care	10 (3.5%)	16 (5.1%)	6 (60.0%)
STD Clinic	86 (29.9%)	68 (21.6%)	-18 (-20.9%)
Private Medical Doctor	100 (34.7%)	130 (41.3%)	30 (30.0%)
Correctional	29 (10.1%)	16 (5.1%)	-13 (-44.8%)
Other	63 (21.9%)	85 (27.0%)	22 (34.9%)
<b>Reports Anonymous Sex*</b>	21 (7.3%)	108 (34.3%)	NA
<b>Reports Sex Work</b>	16 (5.6%)	22 (7.0%)	6 (37.5%)
<b>Reports Sex with Sex Worker</b>	30 (10.4%)	42 (13.3%)	12 (40.0%)
<b>HIV Status*</b>			
+	17 (5.9%)	80 (25.4%)	NA
-	19 (6.6%)	146 (46.3%)	NA
Unknown	252 (87.5%)	89 (28.3%)	NA
<b>Drug Use</b>			
Crack*	56 (19.4%)	75 (23.8%)	19 (33.9%)
Heroin*	21 (37.5%)	19 (25.3%)	NA
Cocaine*	9 (16.1%)	5 (6.7%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	14 (25.0%)	20 (26.7%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	6 (10.7%)	33 (44.0%)	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	26 (9.0%)	17 (5.4%)	-9 (-34.6%)
<b>Met Partners at Bathhouse*</b>	2 (0.7%)	30 (9.5%)	NA
<b>Met Partners Online*</b>	0	13 (4.1%)	NA
<b>Condom Used at Last Sex*</b>	2 (0.7%)	39 (12.4%)	NA

\* Data not routinely collected during 1999. Percent change for these characteristics not calculated.

California's progress toward syphilis elimination is summarized in the box below.

## Progress Toward the Elimination of Syphilis from California

<b>Morbidity Trend</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Reported P&S Syphilis Rate	0.85/100,000	0.91/100,000
% of syphilis-free health jurisdictions	57%	57%
# of counties accounting for 75% of new cases	6	7
African-American:White rate ratio	9:1	4:1
Male:Female rate ratio	3:1	6:1
% MSM of total cases	23%	51%

**Regional Analysis- Northern California**

(Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Lassen, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tuolumne, Yolo, Yuba)

Table 2 summarizes P&S syphilis cases reported during 1999 and 2000 in Northern California. The number of reported cases of P&S syphilis declined 76% in this region from 1999 to 2000, from 21 to 5 cases. A total of 5 P&S syphilis cases were reported in the Northern California region in 2000. In order to protect the confidentiality of P&S syphilis cases in this region, the distribution of morbidity by health jurisdiction will not be presented. Additionally, due to the few cases reported in 2000, the number and percent change for the epidemiologic characteristics are not calculated.

**Table 2- Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, Northern California Region 1999 & 2000<sup>∇</sup>**

Characteristic	1999 n (%) N=21	2000 n (%) N=5	Change n (%) - 16 (-76.2%)
<b>Stage</b>			
Primary	10 (47.6%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
Secondary	11 (52.4%)	4 (80.0%)	NA
<b>Gender</b>			
M	12 (57.1%)	2 (40.0%)	NA
F	9 (42.9%)	3 (60.0%)	NA
<b>Age</b>			
<20	3 (14.3%)	0	NA
20-24	6 (28.6%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
25-29	1 (4.8%)	0	NA
30-34	6 (28.6%)	0	NA
35-39	3 (14.3%)	0	NA
40+	2 (9.5%)	4 (80.0%)	NA
<b>Race</b>			
White	5 (23.8%)	2 (40.0%)	NA
Hispanic	11 (52.4%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
African-American	4 (19.1%)	2 (40.0%)	NA
Other	1 (4.8%)	0	NA
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Heterosexual Male	10 (47.6%)	2 (4.0%)	NA
MSM	0	0	NA
Female	9 (42.9%)	3 (60.0%)	NA
Unknown Male	2 (9.5%)	0	NA
<b>Diagnosed at</b>			
Early HIV Care	0	0	NA
STD Clinic	10 (47.6%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
Private Medical Doctor	6 (28.6%)	0	NA
Correctional	2 (9.5%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
Other	3 (14.3%)	3 (60.0%)	NA
<b>Reports Anonymous Sex*</b>	0	1 (20.0%)	NA
<b>Reports Sex Work</b>	3 (14.3%)	0	NA
<b>Reports Sex with Sex Worker</b>	3 (14.3%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
<b>HIV Status*</b>			
+	0	0	NA
-	0	3 (60.0%)	NA
Unknown	21 (100.0%)	2 (40.0%)	NA
<b>Drug Use</b>			
Crack*	10 (47.6%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
Heroin*	2 (20.0%)	1 (100.0%)	NA
Cocaine*	2 (20.0%)	0	NA
Methamphetamines*	0	0	NA
Methamphetamines*	3 (30.0%)	0	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	2 (9.5%)	1 (20.0%)	NA
<b>Met Partners at Bathhouse*</b>	0	0	NA
<b>Met Partners Online*</b>	0	0	NA
<b>Condom Used at Last Sex*</b>	0	0	NA

<sup>∇</sup> Due to the small number of P&S syphilis cases reported in 2000, the distribution by county will not be presented for confidentiality. Furthermore, no percent change was calculated due to the small number.

\* Data not routinely collected during 1999.

**Regional Analysis- Bay Area**

(Alameda, Berkeley, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, Sonoma)

A summary of Bay Area P&S syphilis morbidity is presented in Table 3. Seventy-three P&S syphilis cases were reported in 2000 in the Bay Area, a 33% increase over the 55 cases reported in 1999. In 2000, nearly 75% of the cases were residents of San Francisco county. This represents an 89% increase in the number of cases reported from this health jurisdiction. Regionally, a majority of 2000 cases were male (86%), a 31% increase in the number of male cases over 1999. Over half (56%) of the reported cases in 2000 were MSM. The number of MSM P&S syphilis cases in 2000 more than doubled over the number in 1999. More complete self-reported HIV serostatus data was available for this region in 2000, which showed that nearly a quarter of P&S syphilis cases reported were HIV seropositive. Illicit drug use increased 3 fold in 2000 in this region, with 50% of drug users reporting methamphetamine use.

**Table 3- Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, Bay Area Region 1999 & 2000**

Characteristic	1999 n (%) N=55	2000 n (%) N=73	Change n (%) 18 (32.7%)
<b>Stage</b>			
Primary	15 (27.3%)	22 (30.1%)	7 (46.7%)
Secondary	40 (72.7%)	51 (69.9%)	11 (27.5%)
<b>Jurisdiction</b>			
San Francisco	28 (50.9%)	53 (72.6%)	28 (89.3%)
Other Bay Area (N=8)	27 (49.1%)	20 (27.4%)	-7 (-26.9%)
<b>Gender</b>			
M	48 (87.3%)	63 (86.3%)	15 (31.3%)
F	7 (12.7%)	10 (13.7%)	3 (42.9%)
<b>Age</b>			
<20	3 (5.5%)	3 (4.1%)	0
20-24	6 (10.9%)	4 (5.5%)	-2 (-33.3%)
25-29	8 (14.5%)	11 (15.1%)	3 (37.5%)
30-34	6 (10.9%)	19 (26.0%)	13 (216.7%)
35-39	7 (12.7%)	13 (17.8%)	6 (85.7%)
40+	25 (45.5%)	23 (31.5%)	-2 (-8.0%)
<b>Race</b>			
White	15 (27.3%)	39 (53.4%)	24 (160.0%)
Hispanic	12 (21.8%)	15 (20.5%)	3 (25.0%)
African-American	17 (30.9%)	10 (13.7%)	-7 (-41.2%)
Other	11 (20.0%)	9 (12.3%)	-2 (-18.1%)
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Heterosexual Male	18 (32.7%)	13 (17.8%)	-5 (-27.8%)
MSM	20 (36.4%)	41 (56.2%)	21 (105.0%)
Female	7 (12.7%)	10 (13.7%)	3 (42.9%)
Unknown Male	10 (18.2%)	9 (12.3%)	-1 (-10.0%)
<b>Diagnosed at</b>			
Early HIV Care	5 (9.1%)	0	-5 (-500.0%)
STD Clinic	13 (23.6%)	19 (26.0%)	6 (46.2%)
Private Medical Doctor	23 (41.8%)	20 (27.4%)	-3 (-13.0%)
Correctional	4 (7.3%)	2 (2.7%)	-2 (-50.0%)
Other	10 (18.2%)	32 (43.8%)	22 (220.0%)
<b>Reports Anonymous Sex*</b>	0	26 (35.6%)	NA
<b>Reports Sex Work</b>	0	6 (8.2%)	6 (600.0%)
<b>Reports Sex with Sex Worker</b>	0	6 (8.2%)	6 (600.0%)
<b>HIV Status*</b>			
+	3 (5.5%)	16 (21.9%)	NA
-	5 (9.1%)	42 (57.5%)	NA
Unknown	47 (85.5%)	15 (20.5%)	NA
<b>Drug Use</b>			
Crack*	4 (7.3%)	16 (21.9%)	12 (300.0%)
Heroin*	2 (50.0%)	4 (25.0%)	NA
Cocaine*	0	1 (6.3%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	0	3 (18.8%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	0	8 (50.0%)	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	3 (5.5%)	1 (1.4%)	-2 (-66.7%)
<b>Met Partners at Bathhouse*</b>	0	7 (9.6%)	NA
<b>Met Partners Online*</b>	0	7 (9.6%)	NA
<b>Condom Used at Last Sex*</b>	0	5 (6.8%)	NA

\* Data not routinely collected during 1999. Percent change for these characteristics not calculated.

**Regional Analysis- Central California**

(Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Tulare, Ventura)

Twenty-five P&S syphilis cases were reported in the Central California region in 2000. This data is summarized in Table 4. These 25 cases represent a 52% decrease in the number of cases reported compared to the same period in 1999, where 38 cases were reported. A cluster of syphilis in Merced resulted in an eight-fold increase (from 1 case to 9) in cases reported from this area. In this region during 2000, nearly 75% of cases were among people of color, and nearly all were among males. These distributions did not differ largely from 1999. In 2000, nearly all cases in this region were 35 years of age and older, whereas in 1999, the age range was wider.

STD clinic sites remain a primary locus for identifying P&S syphilis cases. Compared to other areas in the state where private medical doctors identify a majority of syphilis cases, the Central Region identifies a large proportion of their cases through STD clinical settings (40%). P&S syphilis cases in the Central Region appear more likely to be linked to commercial sex work compared to other California regions. In 2000, 20% of P&S syphilis cases reported sex work (a 1.5 fold increase from 1999), and 44% reported sex with a sex worker. Two cases of P&S syphilis in 2000 were among MSM, compared to 4 in 1999. Syphilis transmission in this region appears to be associated with heterosexual activity; over 60% of cases were among heterosexual men in 2000.

**Table 4- Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, Central California Region 1999 & 2000**

Characteristic	1999 n (%) N=38	2000 n (%) N=25	Change n (%) -13 (-52.0%)
<b>Stage</b>			
Primary	14 (36.8%)	12 (48.0%)	-2 (-14.3%)
Secondary	24 (63.2%)	13 (52.0%)	-11 (-45.8%)
<b>Jurisdiction</b>			
Fresno	14 (36.8%)	4 (16.0%)	-10 (-71.4%)
Kern	13 (34.2%)	7 (28.0%)	-6 (-46.2%)
Other Central (N=7)	11 (28.9%)	14 (56.0%)	3 (27.3%)
<b>Gender</b>			
M	26 (68.4%)	22 (88.0%)	-4 (-15.4%)
F	12 (31.6%)	3 (12.0%)	-9 (-75.0%)
<b>Age</b>			
<20	4 (10.5%)	1 (4.0%)	-3 (-75.0%)
20-24	5 (13.2%)	2 (8.0%)	-3 (-60.0%)
25-29	7 (18.4%)	2 (8.0%)	-5 (-71.4%)
30-34	7 (18.4%)	2 (8.0%)	-5 (-71.4%)
35-39	7 (18.4%)	6 (24.0%)	-1 (-14.3%)
40+	8 (21.1%)	12 (48.0%)	4 (50.0%)
<b>Race</b>			
White	6 (15.8%)	6 (24.0%)	0
Hispanic	23 (60.5%)	9 (36.0%)	-14 (-60.9%)
African-American	9 (23.7%)	10 (40.0%)	1 (11.1%)
Other	0	0	0
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Heterosexual Male	9 (23.7%)	17 (68.0%)	8 (88.9%)
MSM	4 (10.5%)	2 (8.0%)	-2 (-50.0%)
Female	12 (31.6%)	3 (12.0%)	-9 (-75.0%)
Unknown-Male	13 (34.2%)	3 (12.0%)	-10 (-76.9%)
<b>Diagnosed at</b>			
Early HIV Care	0	0	0
STD Clinic	17 (44.7%)	10 (40.0%)	-7 (-41.2%)
Private Medical Doctor	8 (21.1%)	3 (12.0%)	-5 (-62.5%)
Correctional	2 (5.3%)	4 (16.0%)	2 (100.0%)
Other	11 (28.9%)	8 (32.0%)	-3 (-27.3%)
<b>Reports Anonymous Sex*</b>	0	5 (20.0%)	NA
<b>Reports Sex Work</b>	2 (5.3%)	5 (20.0%)	3 (150.0%)
<b>Reports Sex with Sex Worker</b>	6 (15.8%)	11 (44.0%)	5 (83.3%)
<b>HIV Status*</b>			
+	0	0	NA
-	0	14 (56.0%)	NA
Unknown	38 (100.0%)	11 (44.0%)	NA
<b>Drug Use</b>			
Crack*	6 (15.8%)	9 (36.0%)	3 (50.0%)
Heroin*	4 (66.7%)	6 (66.7%)	NA
Cocaine*	0	1 (11.1%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	2 (33.3%)	5 (55.6%)	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	0	2 (22.2%)	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	2 (5.3%)	5 (20.0%)	3 (150.0%)
<b>Met Partners at Bathhouse*</b>	0	0	NA
<b>Met Partners Online*</b>	0	0	NA
<b>Condom Used at Last Sex*</b>	0	1 (4.0%)	NA

\* Data not routinely collected during 1999. Percent change for these characteristics not calculated.

**Regional Analysis- Southern California**

(Imperial, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego)

Southern California saw a 22% increase in P&S syphilis cases, with 212 cases in 2000, up from 174 in 1999. This increase in cases is a direct function of a large outbreak of P&S syphilis among MSM in the region. Furthermore, the comparison of 1999 and 2000 cases suggests a marked shift in the local syphilis epidemiology in this region as shown in Table 5.

In this region, 59% of the 2000 cases were reported from Los Angeles County, a 40% increase in the number of cases reported from this health jurisdiction. Over half of the 2000 cases were 35 years of age and older, and over third were White. While in 1999, only a quarter of cases were among MSM, in 2000 56% of P&S syphilis cases were among MSM. Furthermore, the number of cases identified through HIV early care programs increased over two fold from 1999. Almost a third of 2000 P&S syphilis cases self-reported being HIV seropositive. Drug use among syphilis patients increased in 2000 (36%), with 23 cases reporting methamphetamine use.

**Table 5- Characteristics of Primary and Secondary Syphilis Case-Patients, Southern California Region 1999& 2000**

Characteristic	1999 n (%) N=174	2000 n (%) N=212	Change n (%) 38 (21.8%)
<b>Stage</b>			
Primary	68 (39.1%)	59 (27.8%)	-9 (-13.2%)
Secondary	106 (60.9%)	153 (72.2%)	47 (44.3%)
<b>Jurisdiction</b>			
Long Beach	11 (6.3%)	18 (8.5%)	7 (63.6%)
Los Angeles	89 (51.1%)	125 (59.0%)	89 (40.4%)
Orange	33 (19.0%)	26 (12.3%)	-7 (-26.9%)
San Bernardino	12 (6.9%)	10 (4.7%)	-2 (-16.7%)
San Diego	25 (14.4%)	27 (12.7%)	12 (48.0%)
Other Southern (N=2)	4 (2.3%)	6 (2.8%)	2 (50.0%)
<b>Gender</b>			
M	127 (73.0%)	181 (85.4%)	54 (42.5%)
F	47 (27.0%)	31 (14.6%)	-16 (-34.0%)
<b>Age</b>			
<20	7 (4.0%)	4 (1.9%)	-3 (-42.9%)
20-24	21 (12.1%)	22 (10.4%)	1 (4.8%)
25-29	29 (16.7%)	27 (12.7%)	-2 (-6.9%)
30-34	38 (21.8%)	47 (22.2%)	9 (23.7%)
35-39	27 (15.5%)	50 (23.6%)	27 (85.2%)
40+	52 (29.9%)	62 (29.3%)	10 (19.2%)
<b>Race</b>			
White	40 (23.0%)	81 (38.2%)	41 (102.5%)
Hispanic	76 (43.7%)	79 (37.3%)	3 (3.9%)
African-American	49 (28.2%)	43 (20.3%)	-6 (-12.2%)
Other	9 (5.2%)	9 (4.2%)	0
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>			
Heterosexual Male	57 (32.8%)	43 (20.3%)	-14 (-24.6%)
MSM	42 (24.1%)	119 (56.1%)	77 (183.3%)
Female	47 (27.0%)	31 (14.6%)	-16 (-34.0%)
Unknown	28 (16.1%)	19 (9.0%)	-9 (-32.1%)
<b>Diagnosed at</b>			
Early HIV Care	5 (2.9%)	16 (7.6%)	11 (220.0%)
STD Clinic	46 (26.4%)	38 (17.9%)	-8 (-17.4%)
Private Medical Doctor	63 (36.2%)	107 (50.5%)	44 (70.0%)
Correctional	21 (12.1%)	9 (4.3%)	-12 (57.1%)
Other	39 (22.4%)	42 (19.8%)	3 (7.7%)
<b>Reports Anonymous Sex*</b>	21 (12.1%)	76 (35.8%)	NA
<b>Reports Sex Work</b>	11 (6.3%)	11 (5.2%)	0
<b>Reports Sex with Sex Worker</b>	21 (12.1%)	24 (11.3%)	3 (14.3%)
<b>HIV Status*</b>			
+	14 (8.1%)	64 (30.2%)	NA
-	14 (8.1%)	87 (41.0%)	NA
Unknown	146 (83.9%)	61 (28.8%)	NA
<b>Drug Use</b>			
Crack*	36 (20.7%)	49 (23.1%)	13 (36.1%)
Heroin*	13 (36.1%)	8 (16.3%)	NA
Cocaine*	7 (19.4%)	3 (6.1%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	12 (33.3%)	12 (24.5%)	NA
Methamphetamines*	3 (8.3%)	23 (46.9%)	NA
<b>Currently Incarcerated</b>	19 (10.9%)	10 (4.7%)	-9 (-47.4%)
<b>Met Partners at Bathhouse*</b>	2 (1.1%)	23 (10.8%)	NA
<b>Met Partners Online*</b>	0	6 (2.8%)	NA
<b>Condom Used at Last Sex*</b>	2 (1.1%)	33 (15.6%)	NA

\* Data not routinely collected during 1999. Percent change for these characteristics not calculated.